

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/617,686

Examiner

Matsuichiro Shimizu

Applicant(s)

SAKAMOTO ET AL.

Art Unit

2635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/3/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-5, 7-10, 12, 19, 22-25 and 32-34.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 7/14/03 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 7/14/03
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Connie Shiflett, legal secretary for Attorney Stephen A. Becker on 6/24/05.

The application has been amended as follows:

Regarding claim 33,

Delete the phrase "A program executed by a memory card reading/writing apparatus that is capable of accessing data recorded on a memory card and comprising:"

Add the phrase "A program stored on a computer readable medium that is executed by a memory card reading/writing apparatus and causes the apparatus to access data recorded on the computer readable medium and to perform the steps of:"

Regarding claim 34,

Delete the phrase "Storage medium possible to be read by a computer storing a program executed by a memory card reading/writing apparatus that is capable of accessing data recorded on a memory card and comprising:"

Add the phrase "A computer readable medium storing a program executed by a memory card reading/writing apparatus that is capable of accessing data recorded on a memory card the program performing the steps of:"

Response to Preliminary Amendment

The examiner acknowledges canceled claims 6, 11, 13-18, 20-21 and 26-31 and amended claims 22-23.

Allowable Subject Matter

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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Regarding claims 1-5, 7-10, 12, 19 and 22-25, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest a memory unit operable to store apparatus-user information that identifies the user of said memory card reading/writing apparatus;

an apparatus-user-information-acquisition unit operable to acquire said apparatus-user information from said memory unit; and

a memory-card- user-information-acquisition unit operable to acquire from said memory card main-memory-card-user information that identifies the main user of said memory card.

Regarding claims 32-34, the prior arts fail to teach or fairly suggest acquiring apparatus-user information that identifies the user of said memory card reading/writing apparatus from memory unit storing said apparatus-user information; and

acquiring from said memory card main-memory-card-user information that identifies the main user of said memory card.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matsuichiro Shimizu whose telephone number is 571-272-3066. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Horabik, can be reached on 571-272-3068. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-3068.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703-305-8576).

Matsuichiro Shimizu

June 25, 2005



MICHAEL HORABIK
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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